

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

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February 2007

No. 2



Calendar

Wed. Feb. 28	Community Cupcakes" service project and celebration, Town Hall, 4 to 7 pm (see p 2); Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm	Tues., Mar. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Mar. 1	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Mar. 15	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Mar. 12	Town Council Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Mar. 28	Citizens Assoc. Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm; Nominations for Town Council Election

In the Valentine Season

At the February meeting of the Town Council, the Mayor placed a long-stemmed red carnation by each Councilmember's name plate, in honor of Valentine's Day. This put everyone in a good mood. Neighborly chat warmed up the room on a chilly night.

The big news of the evening, announced without fanfare, was the official letter from the State Highway Administration approving full signalization of the Strathmore/Kenilworth light. "This has been 60 years in the making," said the Mayor. She acknowledged the hard work of the Council and many citizens in finally making this happen. Work will begin in the spring.

Earlier in the meeting, Dick Pratt and Gunars Platais made presentations to the Council about plans for parking at Penn Place. "From a safety perspective, Plan A would be best for pedestrians," said Gunars. "And aesthetically, Plan A is more pleasing."

"Some of us were concerned, as we walked out of the last meeting on the subject," said Dick, "that maybe the project wasn't going to go anywhere. As a town we've done extremely well over the years in dealing with infrastructure problems we've had. I urge us not to stumble and fall in dealing with this one."

Councilman Soltan seconded this, noting that the engineer's report the town recently commissioned indicates that Penn Place is a priority. Councilman Benjamin said that this was not a necessary the case, as there had been revisions to the report. Councilwoman Irons remarked, "I want to get a handle on *all* the issues we're facing in terms of infrastructure."

In Committee Reports, Councilman Altar noted that Garrett Park web site contractors are being reviewed, and that we're close to making a choice. The cost may be a couple of thousands dollars higher than we'd hoped. Tony also

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)

reported that the new speed limit signs have arrived; we hope to get them in place by the end of this month.

Later in the evening, Tony pointed out to your reporter that the BSO-sponsored Homes of Garrett Park tour is in need of three more homes. Contact Resa Levy (301-581-5215) or Kristin Altar (301-962-0910) if you'd like to take part. In gratitude for your willingness to open your home, Strathmore offers you free tickets to concerts, as well as gifts, and the BSO will host a concert for Garrett Parkers as part of this event.

Councilman Soltan reported that he's still receiving comments on the Right of Way Committee report. One big remaining problem is the question of how to determine the town right of way for each house.

In her report, the Mayor described having been in Annapolis for the Maryland Mayors' Association meeting. She warned that legislators believe next year will be "pure hell" in terms of budgets—for everyone. There's a very large shortfall in revenue, in part because highway user funds are down, with fewer new cars being purchased in Maryland.

Mayor Shawaker also noted that Verizon trucks have been in town lately, moving V hubs out of sightlines, whatever that means.

Peter Benjamin again took up the subject of the recent Capital Programming Draft Plan, which includes things the town should be doing in the short and long term to maintain and enhance its infrastructure. The more urgent work involves street improvements on Albemarle, Argyle, and Clyde, plus Montrose between Strathmore and Clermont. Waverly, all the way down the hill, is heavily trafficked and should also get some attention.

Before the Council took up budgetary matters (I wasn't there for this part of the meeting), the Mayor announced that she had appointed Kevin Poole to the Historic Preservation Committee, replacing Bob Reinhardt.

This was a friendly, low-impact Town Council gathering, with a sense of goodwill all around, and a willingness, as always, to deal with all manner of town issues, from the sublime to the sublunary.

Margaret Soltan

Get Ready for Spring Musicale!

It is time for your singing career to blossom. Every year, the Garrett Park Singers practice a few songs to sing at the musicale in May. Everybody is busy, so the time commitment is minimal: just several Sunday evenings. It is a lot of fun. If you are interested, please call Megumi (Meme) Lincoln and leave a message.

Service and Celebration

Community Cupcakes, a community service program, will hold a celebration featuring service, pizza, and birthday cake on February 28 at the Town Hall, from 4 to 7 pm. All this will be to honor the life of Luke Carter Schelp, who once said, "I'll volunteer if they have cupcakes." Bag lunches will be made and assembled for area shelters. Fleece shawls and scarves will be made to be given to hospice patients and their family members. Bookmarks, cards, and decorated gift boxes will be made for "Books, Bears, and Bonnets," which offers gifts to children and adults with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Also, cards will be made for the servicemen and women overseas through Operation USO's Care Package Program. All this will be done in collaboration with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. RSVP to Val Carter by February 23.

GIVES

GIVES is up and running in 2007. January and February collections have gone well. Volunteer assignments for Saturday Post Office dates were mailed out. We could still use some help—especially for substitutes. Please call if you can give two hours once a year for this worthwhile cause.

On another note, it does not appear that the Garrett Park Cookbook will become a reality. We tried, but unfortunately we did not have sufficient response and interest. Thank you to those who did send recipes; they will be filed away should we decide to try again in the future. We will not have a Soup Supper in March this year. We hope to have another one in the fall or next spring.

Read the *Bugle* and watch the Post Office bulletin board for future GIVES notes. Thanks to everyone who helps and contributes. Contact Glenda Ingham or Karen Anderson.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town Budget: The Council is currently working on the FY 2008 budget (July 2007 through June 2008), which will be introduced at the regular Council meeting on March 12. If any residents have comments or suggestions regarding next fiscal year's budget, they should contact the Mayor, a Councilmember, or the Town office.

Large Item Pickup: The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, April 7.

State Tax Form Reminder: Please remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, town or taxing area" when filling out your state income tax forms. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents. Also, the Town Office can provide copies of most IRS forms, so stop by if you need any.

Town Elections 2007: Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 7. Polls are open from 7 to 11 am and 4 to 7:30 pm. The terms of office for Councilmembers Tony Altar, Peter Benjamin, and Karol Soltan are up this year. Nominations will be held at the Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, March 28, with the Candidates Forum set for Wednesday, April 25. Additional

nominations may be made by written petition signed by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Administrator by 4 pm on Monday, April 16. The last day to register to vote in this election is Monday, April 9. (To be eligible to vote, you need to be registered with Montgomery County or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents.) Absentee ballots will be available Wednesday, April 18, through Friday, April 27, and may be mailed to you or picked up at the Town Office. Emergency absentee ballots may be requested after this date if some unanticipated situation prevents you from being able to come to the polls; please call the Town Office if you need an emergency absentee ballot.

If you have not voted in the last five years, your name will have been withdrawn from the active file by Montgomery County, and you will need to reregister. You may register at any time by calling the Town Office for the necessary forms (or for address change forms). You may also register at the Town Office during normal office hours. Special registration hours will also be held on Saturday, March 31, and Saturday, April 7, from 8 am until noon at the Town Office. Please call the Town Office with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

Ted Pratt

Join the List Serv

Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the new Garrett Park neighborhood list serv.

The list serv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters.) The list serv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

To join, simply e-mail Todd Harris at Todd@TCH1968.com or sign in at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join>.



Green Again!

Walt Damtoft sent us money for our banner green in June of last year, and we're just catching up with him. Walt lives in North Carolina, but still remembers us, his wife Janet working on the *Bugle*, and his years here. Our thanks go to him.

Did you use the envelope in the last issue to pay your Citizens Association dues? If not, please send it in, or make out a new envelope and mail it to Box 456. Thanks.

Mary Moyer



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An Excellent Report

The Penn Place Parking Committee, led by Dennis Collins, studied alternative arrangements for the parking area along Rokeby from Penn Place to just past the MARC stop and prepared a thorough, informative, balanced, and complete report examining the costs, benefits, advantages, and disadvantages of two alternative configurations for the area, including a sidewalk. It is one of the best reports I have seen from any committee in the town. And the oral report by the committee was extremely well done, with the advocates for each plan carefully describing both its strengths and weaknesses.

There is an understandable desire now to choose one option and proceed with implementation. One of the most important products of the report was a set of preliminary designs and costs. If the town now pays to proceed, it will cost between \$500 and \$1,000 per household, to be funded from our taxes. With the information developed, however, we are now able to pursue county, state, and federal funding to assist us in covering the costs, much as we did with the Penn Place and Strathmore projects.

Further, we are near the completion of developing a multiyear capital program for the maintenance of our roads, sidewalks, buildings, parks, trees, and equipment. Implementing the Penn Place parking plan without external funding would displace and delay some road, sidewalk, or recreation projects. I believe that the responsible next step, which we are already pursuing, is obtaining funding for at least a portion of the costs of improving Penn Place parking from one or more of the many road, parking, transit, and sidewalk grant programs.

Peter Benjamin

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark.org/

Work for Repeal

Encouraged by our new governor, a bill is being considered by both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate to repeal the death penalty, and so I ask that you as citizens come to a meeting of the Citizens Association to hear a speaker from MD-CASE (Citizens Against the Death Penalty). The courts have declared that the current law in Maryland is flawed, and the majority of people in the state do not want to compound the problem trying to fix a system that is flawed on every level. We have alternatives that are moral, less costly, and allow us to concentrate our efforts on other aspects of our criminal justice system. Come learn about the long history of waste, inaccuracy, and bias that has shattered public confidence and led to this important time in our history. Our delegates in District 17 play a large part in getting this repeal passed, and we must act now to express the will of the people. Please join me in an act of citizen advocacy at the Town Hall on February 28.

Carol Henig

Energy Options

Ever wonder what you can do to keep winter "cool"? How about switching your home to earth-friendly energy options at minimal cost? Pepco offers several to choose from, with 100-percent wind energy being the cleanest, and mixes of renewable sources (wind, solar, biomass) being less costly. Just call Pepco, or use the Web site link below, and give them your account number (on your energy bill) to make the switch.

<http://www.pepcoenergy.com/ProductsAndServices/residentialServices.aspx?MarketCode=Residential>

The price is \$0.1227/kWh for 100-percent wind and \$0.1157/kWh for "green energy" which is a mix of renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass). Wouldn't it be so cool if all of GP were running on clean energy?

Jen Sass



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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Jackie and Paul Osmond became grandparents for the eighth time on December 19. Proud parents are Holly (Osmond) and Jeff Rowe. They now have a baby boy who joins his big sister (4 plus years old) in the family home in Shady Spring, West Virginia.
- ♪ The spring musicale is gearing up. If anyone would like to join the Garrett Park singing group, give Meme Lincoln a call.
- ♪ Go see the exhibition at the Mansion at Strathmore from February 24 to March 31. This year's juried exhibit is entitled "Food for Thought," with works on the theme of food. It is to be judged by chefs! Sounds tasty.
- ♪ A Shape Note Singing Workshop will be held on Sunday, March 18, at the Mansion. This type of singing, also called fasola singing or Sacred Harp singing, is an interesting form of early American three- and four-part a cappella folk music. Call 301-581-5100 for information.

Conservation Trust

The Garrett Park Conservation Trust is grateful to all the GP residents who donated funds, purchased memberships, or otherwise indicated their support. The Trust is not officially affiliated with or supported by the town. The committee donates its time to work with interested residents on creative and beneficial ways to preserve open space. Land trusts provide a mechanism whereby individuals who want to voluntarily limit future development on their property may do so by giving an easement tailored to the desires of the grantor, often with tax benefits. We encourage all GP residents to contact us for more information, or see our web site: www.gpctrust.net.

Jennifer Sass and Ken Ingham

Global Warming Concerns?

We are looking for a few people who would be interested in joining an informal committee to explore what Garrett Parkers can do to combat global warming as individuals and what we can do as a town. We have a few thoughts, but we are sure that other people in town would have many more ideas. We would welcome middle school and high school students as well as adults.

If you are interested, please call Karen Anderson or Janet Wegner.

Don't you wish you could stop time?

We Can!

Les Henig
PHOTOGRAPHY

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www.LesHenig.com



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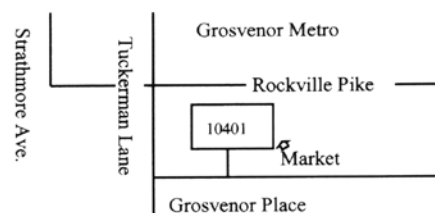
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Letter from the Mayor

Last week I was in Annapolis for three days. I am on the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee again this year. At Wednesday's meeting, we met with the new Secretary of the Budget, who told us that Governor O'Malley will try to ensure that the municipalities will get their full funding from the 2008 state budget, but she warned that there is a very large deficit of \$1.4 billion ahead for 2009. President Mike Miller of the State Senate also met with us and was very pessimistic about the state budgetary future. Both pointed out that the previous administration had used a great deal of the state transportation fund and the Rainy Day fund to balance previous budgets while cutting revenue sources.

Thursday and Friday I was at the Maryland Mayors' Conference. We met with our legislative delegation to discuss issues affecting Garrett Park and other municipalities in Montgomery County. We spent Friday afternoon with appointments with Governor O'Malley; Speaker of the House of Delegates Mike Busch; Senate President Mike Miller; Senator Currie, Chair of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee; Delegate Conway, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee; and Peter Franchot, Comptroller. It was a very interesting and useful conference.

We have received a letter from the Chief Engineer for Traffic and Safety of the State Highway Administration informing us that the traffic signal at Strathmore and Kenilworth Avenues will be "fully signalized" in the spring. Our District 17

team of Senator Forehand, Delegates Barve, Simmons, and Gilchrist, as well as Delegate Bronrot from District 16, worked very hard to get this for us.

Despite the cold weather, I believe that spring will come again to Garrett Park. Along with spring, we often see a lot of people thinking about projects for their homes. If you are considering an addition, deck, or accessory building, you will need to get a building permit from the town. Our permitting committee is the Setback Advisory Committee. The members of the committee review all permit applications and advise the Town Council if the permit should be granted. The chair of the committee is Harry Gordon, who is an architect. Often in the past, people have found that they have saved money and come out with a much better plan and design by consulting with Harry and the committee early in their planning. Thus, I recommend that you consult with the committee so that you avoid any zoning pitfalls and get a great plan for your project. If you have a historic property, you will also need to consult the Historic Preservation Committee. Having served on this committee in the past, I am aware of how the members of the committee have made very useful suggestions that have contributed greatly to beautiful projects. I am very grateful to all the volunteers who serve on these committees and who give very generously of their time and talent to assist others in town.

Carolyn Shawaker